

## Proper Weapon Clearing: the duty of Soldiers

Story by

Pvt. Jun, Min-soo and

Pvt. Kim, Jae-hwan / KATUSA

8th U.S. Army Public Affairs Office

Hwarang staff writers

Two Soldiers participating in Ulchi Focus Lens accidentally discharged their weapons into the clearing barrel recently.

Though the weapons were loaded with blanks and outfitted with muzzle adapters, accidental discharges are events that should not happen, said Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher D. Culbertson, U.S. Army Troop Command-Korea command sergeant major.

To make sure Eighth Army Soldiers become fluent in weapons procedures, Soldiers participating in UFL are conducting Weapons Immersion Training. This training is part of a larger Army program that began over a year ago and goes hand-in-hand with the fostering of a Warrior Ethos culture. Weapons immersion consists of muzzle awareness, correctly handling the weapon and proper weapon clearing procedures, Culbertson said.

Accidental discharges are an Armywide issue.

"There have been three fatalities and 24 injuries involving weapons handling from Oct. 2004 to Sep. 2005 Armywide. From Oct. 2005 to now, there have been five fatalities and 20 injuries re-

lated to weapons handling," said Chief Warrant Officer John E. Roberts, 8th Army command safety officer.

"Muzzle awareness while handling weapons and proper clearing procedures are essential in preventing personal injuries," Roberts said.

Clearing an M16A2 rifle begins with orienting a weapon, which the selector lever is on safe, in a safe direction away from personnel, buildings, living creatures or vehicles. Ideally the weapon should be oriented toward the cleaning barrel if one is available. It is the next step that caused the UFL accidental discharges. The next step is to remove the magazine. When Soldiers lock their bolt to the rear and discharge the previously chambered round without dropping their magazine, they inadvertently chamber a round.

"They could even wind up chambering two rounds," Culbertson said. "Then -- without realizing it -- when they continue the clearing procedure they have an accidental discharge or worse."

What Soldiers should do after dropping the magazine and pulling the bolt to the rear is to observe the chamber and the receiver. Soldiers should then release the bolt, place the weapon on semi, and squeeze the trigger. The process is completed af-



Photo by Pvt. Jun, Min-soo

Daniel Seung Han Kim clearing his weapon

ter the Soldier charges the weapon, places the selector on safe and closes the dust cover.

Another way to avoid accidental discharges is to have a noncommissioned officer observe the weapons clearing.

"The squad leader should be the first to clear his weapon and then he should observe all of his Soldiers clear their weapons," Culbertson said.

Soldiers should read the guidance located near the clearing barrel thoroughly and do as it says, said Sgt. Maj. John E. Swain, 8th Army Operations sergeant major. If there is no guidance nearby, and a squad leader is not

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### The colors of the sky in Daegu

AUG 24



High T Low T

90 F 73 F  
32 C 23 C

AUG 25



High T Low T

88 F 73 F  
31 C 23 C

AUG 26



High T Low T

86 F 70 F  
30 C 21 C



=>Continued from the article on page 1  
available Soldiers should seek out a  
NCO for assistance.

“Noncommissioned officers can  
teach you how, because they are  
supposed to carry weapon clearing  
cards, which explains how to clear  
each weapon,” Swain said.

Weapons should be cleared before  
entering the compound, LSA and  
DFAC.

“You don’t want people with a  
loaded rifle inside a building for fear  
of accidents, discharge or anything  
like that. You want to make sure that  
everybody has a weapon that doesn’t  
have ammunition in it to make sure  
no one gets hurt,” said Sgt. Daniel  
Seung Han Kim, 8th Army Band  
clarinet player and a security guard  
during UFL.

“Physically doing something re-  
peatedly and practicing something  
over and over will result in getting  
better. Clearing and handling a  
weapon is something that every per-  
son in the military should be accu-  
stomed to.”



*Orient weapon in a safe  
direction and remove the  
magazine from the weapon.*



*Attempt to place  
weapon selector lever  
on SAFE.*



*Lock bolt to rear. Inspect  
the receiver and chamber to  
ensure no ammunition is  
present.*



*With NO ammunition in  
chamber or receiver, allow the  
bolt to go forward. Aim weapon  
into clearing container, rotate  
selector lever to SEMI,  
squeeze the trigger.*



*Charge weapon once and  
place selector lever on  
SAFE.*



*Close the dust cover.*

*Photo by Sgt. Lee, Jung-woo*

## Voice of the Hwarang Staff ( AUG 2006 )

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## KOREAN TONGUE

By Pvt. Nam, Jin-yung / KATUSA

### # Essential Expressions

When you confess your love

I like you: Nahn – Nuhl – Jo – Ah – Hae

I love you: Nahn – Nuhl – Sah – lang – Hae

I want to be with you forever: Yung – Won – Hee – Nuh – Wah – Hahm  
– Kae – Hahl – lae

How do I live without you?: Nuh – Up – See – Sahl – Soo – Up – Suh

Would you marry me?: Nah – Wah – Kyul – Hon – Hae – Joo

### # Military Terms

Staff Sergeant: Hah – Sah

Sergeant First Class: Joong – Sah

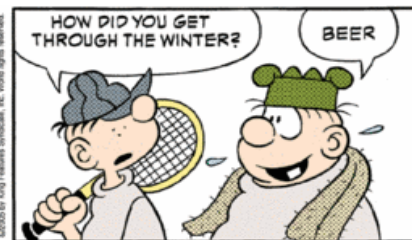
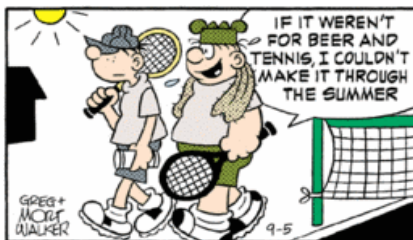
Master Sergeant: Sang – Sah

First Sergeant: Il – Deung – Sang – Sah

Sergeant Major: Won – Sah

Command Sergeant Major: Joo – Im – Won – Sah

Sergeant Major of the Army: Yuk – Goon – Joo – Im – Won – Sah



## The voice of the Warriors

By Pvt. Kim, Jae-hwan and Pvt. Suk, Sang-hoon / KATUSA

### < Question >

*What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you wake up?*



**Maj. Stephen F. Robbins**  
Liaison Officer  
8th Army Command

*"When I wake up, I look forward to another exciting day working with the ROK Army and learning more about the Korean people."*



**Sgt. 1st Class Russel Matteo**  
Chaplain Assistant  
94th Army Air & Missile Defense Command

*"I hope there is going to be hot water for my shower during UFL. Of course it could be worse, at least I have a shower."*



**Spc. Marsalee Burrus**  
Operational Sustainment Directorate NCO  
G9, 8th U.S. Army

*"When I wake up, I have two contradictory thoughts. On one hand, I think I always learn a lot from the exercise. On the other hand, I think I will be happy when the exercise is finally over. (Isn't it over yet?)"*



**Pfc. Choi, Yong-won**  
Driver  
G3, 8th U.S. Army

*"The Ulchi Focus Lens is a critical exercise to defend my nation from North Korean's threat, and that makes me proud of it. I think that I should do my job with pride because the Ulchi Focus Lens exercise is a very important operation which enables our country to defend South Korea."*

## UFL 2006: Consolidation of Friendship

### Commentary by

**Pvt. Suk, Sang-Hoon / KATUSA**

8th U.S. Army Public Affairs Office

Hwarang staff writer

It has been 56 years since the catastrophic war broke out on this Peninsula. Under destructive attacks, two nations fought side-by-side for freedom and democracy. Only two months after the beginning of the invasion, the United Nations Forces were cornered in the Southeastern part of the Peninsula, and the situation was devastating. Without the support from the United Nations, the Peninsula would have fallen into North Korean hands. South Koreans still remember that 60,000 American Soldiers died for a country they never heard of, and

appreciate it.

The Korean-American Alliance has been working well, Korean ambassador Lee Tae-sik said in his reception for the Korean War veterans, June 23 in Washington D.C. The stationing of the U.S. troops gave stability to Korea. As a result, Korea achieved successful economic development. For example, gross domestic product of Korea has grown tenfold in 2000 compared to 1960, according to the International Monetary Fund and became one of the 10 largest economies in the world. The outstanding performance of the Korean economy means that the U.S. has earned another strategically important partner in the East Asian region.

Today, Korea is not a country unknown to Americans. Korea is contributing to the international community with the U.S., in ways such as fighting together from Vietnam to Iraq. The Alliance has been mutually beneficial.

The Ulchi Focus Lens 2006 exercise



*The Soldiers are fighting together*

signifies the ROK-US Alliance, a solid friendship between the ROK and the U.S. "America's commitment to peace in the region, and to the security of our friends, is unbreakable," said U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney in his address at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, observing the 53rd anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War July 27 in Washington D.C.

The exercise is scheduled to end Sept. 1, with more than 15,000 ROK and U.S. Soldiers. The exercise is designed to train, evaluate and improve combined and joint procedures, plans and systems for conducting operations critical to the defense of the Korean Peninsula, according to a spokesman of ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

<Reference: <http://www.dynamic-korea.com>, <http://www.nbc.com>>



*American Soldiers Landing on Incheon*